

Serial No.: 10/705,652

Docket No.: R0042CON

Amendment Dated January 23, 2006

Responsive to the FINAL Office Action dated November 2, 2005

REMARKS

Prior to the present Office Action, claims 1-36 were pending. Claims 16-17 have been canceled, and claims 37-48 added. Therefore, claims 1-15 and 18-48 are presently pending.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 4-6, 12-15 and 23-36.

Claims 1, 19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mollenauer, et al. (USPN 5,634,937). Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Williamson, IV (USPN 5,545,179).

Applicants do not concede the merits of the Examiner's rejections above, but in the interest of permitting a patent to issue, and in view of the final status of the Office Action, accept the allowability of claims 8, 10, and 16-18 as follows.

No new claims will be added based on allowable claim 8.

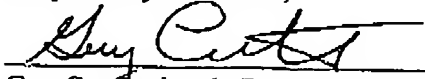
Claim 17 has been combined into claim 1, and claim 17 canceled. The dependency of claim 18 has been amended.

Claims 1 and 16 have been combined into new claim 37, and claim 16 canceled. New claims 38-48 all depend from claim 37 and consist of claims that were originally dependent on claim 1, namely, claims 2-3, 7-11, and 19-22 (with claims 10 and 11 reordered into proper sequence).

In accordance with the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1-15 and 18-48 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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